

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief Ronal W. Serpas**



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**May 30, 2003**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **New Technology Helps WSP Find and Educate Aggressive Drivers**



WSP Chief Ronal Serpas announced today that the Commercial Vehicle Division (CVD) recently put a new vehicle out on the road equipped with Secure Eye, a new computer system to assist in the detection of aggressive driving on our roads. The CVD is a division within the State Patrol that, through education and enforcement, ensures compliance with commercial motor vehicle regulations to protect resources, prevent collisions, and save lives.

Recent statistics have shown 76% of fatalities involving commercial vehicles are caused by passenger cars. "Based on that statistic, we came up with the decision to utilize an unmarked covert vehicle and the latest technology to assist in our efforts to address this problem," CVD Aggressive Driver Apprehension Team coordinator Sergeant Mike Rupert said. "We are proactively utilizing this vehicle to observe, record evidence, and report violations on both passenger vehicles and commercial motor vehicles to educate aggressive drivers," he added.

The new technology allows the State Patrol to identify vehicles in all lanes and focus on the violator using a digital camera. Unlike the common video tape system, this system also has a pre-event recording option which allows the user to set a specified parameter to actually record footage prior to the activation of emergency lights. This feature can be extremely beneficial when an officer is questioned reference any type of profiling, because it captures the reason the officer originally turned on his/her emergency equipment. The computer records their actions along with the speed of the vehicle and the patrol vehicle for potential court purposes. The system also has a Global Positioning feature which can be used to pinpoint the exact location of the patrol vehicle.



Trooper Chuck Schroeder showing Chief Ronal W. Serpas the new computer system.

The new vehicle will assist the 16 troopers statewide from the Field Operations Bureau who are part of Aggressive Driver Apprehension Team. Last year, these troopers accounted for 40% of the state's aggressive driving arrests and cited them for 53,693 individual violations.

During its first 60 hours on the road in the King County area, CVD troopers have recorded a total of 140 violations using the new technology. Of these violations, 26 stops were made for aggressive driving and 10 of those stops were recorded as cars affecting commercial motor vehicles. Last year, 237 people were killed in accidents caused by speeding. "This vehicle will be an excellent tool to reduce fatalities on the highway," Captain Fred R. Fakkema said.

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